

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended): An Internet telephone system having an Internet network for transferring voice information in the form of a voice packet which is transmitted from a voice communications terminal incorporating a voice communications function, and transferring data in the form of a data packet which are transmitted from a data communications terminal incorporating a data communications function, said system comprising:

a first detecting unit for detecting a transition of a call-out state of said voice communications terminal;

a packet assembling unit for assembling, when said first detecting unit detects the transition of the call-out state of said voice communications terminal, a control packet containing indication information for changing, to a predetermined limit value, a maximum length of each of the data packets transferred via said Internet network; and

a first routing unit for routing, when receiving the control packet containing the indication information, each of the data packets and the voice packet to said Internet network while ~~restricting~~ changing the maximum length of the data packet to the predetermined limit value.

2.(original): An Internet telephony system according to claim 1, further comprising a second routing unit for preferentially routing the voice packet to said Internet network under the condition that said first routing unit routes the data packet in accordance with the predetermined limit value.

3.(previously amended): An Internet telephony system according to claim 1, wherein said first routing unit, when receiving the control packet, fragments the data packet having a length exceeding the predetermined limit value in order to route each of the data packets to said Internet network in accordance with the predetermined limit value.

4.(previously amended): An Internet telephony system according to claim 1, further comprising a second detecting unit for detecting an end-of-communications state of said voice communications terminal.

5.(original): An Internet telephony system according to claim 4, wherein when said second detecting unit detects the end-of-communications state of said voice communications terminal, said packet assembling unit assembles a control packet containing indication information in order for said first routing unit to make each of the data packets transferable to said Internet network up to the maximum length.

6.(original): An Internet telephony system according to claim 5, wherein each of the voice packet, the data packet and the control packet takes the form of an Internet Protocol packet.

7.(currently amended): An Internet telephony system according to claim 6, wherein said first and second detecting units and said packet assembling unit are provided in a gateway for converting the voice information transmitted from said voice communications terminal into a packet in accordance with the Internet Protocol, and

said first routing unit and a second routing unit are provided in a router for routing

the Internet Protocol packet to said Internet network.

8.(currently amended): A method of controlling a packet transfer in an Internet telephone system having an Internet network for transferring voice information in the form of a voice packet which is transmitted from a voice communications terminal incorporating a voice communications function, and transferring data in the form of a data packet which are transmitted from a data communications terminal incorporating a data communications function, said method comprising:

a first step of detecting a transition of a call-out state of said voice communications terminal;

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a second step of assembling, when detecting the transition of the call-out state of said voice communications terminal, a control packet containing indication information for changing, to a predetermined limit value, a maximum length of each of the data packets transferred via said Internet network; and

a third step of routing, when receiving the control packet containing the indication information, each of the data packets and the voice packet to said Internet network while ~~restricting~~ changing the maximum length of the data packet to the predetermined limit value.

9.(original): A method of controlling a packet transfer according to claim 8, further comprising a fourth step of preferentially routing the voice packet to said Internet network under the condition that the data packet is routed in accordance with the predetermined limit value in said third step.

10.(previously amended): A method of controlling a packet transfer according to claim 8, further comprising a fifth step of detecting an end-of-communications state of said voice communications terminal.

11.(original): A method of controlling a packet transfer according to claim 10, further comprising a sixth step of assembling, when the end-of-communications state of said voice communications terminal is detected in said fifth step, a control packet containing indication information for making each of the data packets transferable to said Internet network up to the maximum length.

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12.(previously added): An Internet telephony system according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined limit value is smaller than the maximum length of the data packet.

13.(previously added): A method of controlling a packet transfer according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined limit value is smaller than the maximum length of the data packet.
